



JANUARY-FEBRUARY-2011
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UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Central Service Office Monthly Business Meeting** Feb 2nd and March 2nd at 5:30 pm at the CSO. March is election of officers for the upcoming year. All groups are encouraged to send a representative.
- **District 8 GSR Meeting** usually 3rd Saturday of the month at 1:30 pm generally @ Alano Club, 320 Clark Street, Pueblo
- **Longtimers**....Jan. 22, 2011 @ Alano Club, 320 Clark Street, Pueblo...11:30-3:00 pm

NEWS FROM THE CENTRAL SERVICE OFFICE OF SOUTHERN COLORADO

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Closed some holidays Call to verify

Reflections on Conference Approved Literature

Most Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings, whether implicitly or explicitly, consider cross-talk to be non-constructive and confrontational. They are correct. In that spirit, the intent of this entry is simply to offer another perspective on the topic of AA conference approved literature, rather than to argue with the article printed in the March/April 2010 Southern Colorado Central Service Office Newsletter.

As the fledgling AA organization confronted the realization that Bill W. and Bob S. would not live forever, the first annual General Service Conference (GSC) of AA was convened in 1951. This conference has taken place every year since that original event. As our 9th Tradition states, "A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve." The first and subsequent GSC events did just that.

From 1951 on, the Trustees Literature Committee, the GSC Literature Committee, and the participants in the GSC have overseen the content of AA literature which is published by the AA General Service Office. This is a fact.

In 1951, it was recommended by the GSC Literature Committee that in future years, AA textbook literature should have conference approval. (pg. 56 in Advisory Actions of the General Service Conference of A.A.: 1951-2009). The Committee went on to state that this recommendation was not intended to review, edit, or censor non-Foundation material but rather, to provide, in the future, a means of distinguishing Foundation literature from that issued locally or by non-AA interests. Furthermore, the AA General Service Office (GSO) clearly defines the term "Conference approved" as "written or audio-visual material approved by the Conference for publication by GSO of Alcoholics Anonymous. This process assures that everything in such literature is in accord with AA principles. Conference-approved material always deals with the recovery program of Alcoholics Anonymous or with information about the AA Fellowship." (pg.1 in Service Material from the GSO available at (www.aa.org)). Moreover, it states "Conference approval assures us that a piece of literature represents solid AA experience. Any Conference-approved booklet or pamphlet goes through a lengthy and painstaking process, during which a variety of AAs from —

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Who Is Your CSO Representative ?

Do you know who your CSO rep is ? Does your group even have a rep ? Do you know what a rep does ? Well read on. A CSO rep attends the monthly meeting at the CSO

and gives input so the Steering Committee can attend to the needs of the AA population

that it represents. A rep has a vote on any issues that are brought up at the meeting. A rep tells his/her group what the heck is going on at these meetings. To be a rep one should be an AA member in good standing, be a home group member of the group he/she represents and attend the monthly CSO meeting. Each group is entitled to have one CSO rep. so join in and let us know what you people want to happen in Southern Colorado AA.

Treasurers Report

Nov 1st balance	\$ 4762.42
Income	\$ 722.68
Expenses	\$ 887.12
Dec 1st Balance	\$ 4267.69
Income	\$ 453.43
Expenses	\$ 589.77
Jan 1st balance	\$ 4387.82

Highlights of Monthly CSO Board Meetings

No copies of secretary report

all over the United States and Canada read and express opinions at every stage of production." Does this mean that AA has an index of forbidden books? Of course not. The AA GSO stats that the term does not imply that the Conference disapproves or approves of other material about AA. It reaffirms that a great deal of literature helpful to alcoholics is published by others, and AA does not try to tell any individual member or group what he or she or they may or may not read." This is consistent with our 4th Tradition, which states that each group should be autonomous except in matters

affecting other groups or A.A as a whole. In other words, if your group wants to read from Twenty-Four Hours a Day or The Little Red Book or Sermon on the Mount, then knock yourselves out. But, the fact is that these resources, however valuable, are not conference-approved. I got sober in 1991. My AA Big Book has the AA circle and triangle logo printed at the beginning. This means it is conference-approved. My King James Bible does not have this logo. It is not conference-approved. Further common sense explains why the first edition of the Big Book was not conference approved. As the first

Conference occurred in 1951, and the first Big Book was copyrighted in 1939, there was no conference to do the approving. As the March/April 2010 Newsletter article points out, Alcoholics Anonymous phased out the official use of the circle and triangle symbol in and on its literature, instead replacing this symbol with the term "Conference Approved literature." Such literature now bears the statement, This is A.A. General Service Conference-approved literature. But in conclusion, we alcoholics are too hung up on approval anyway.

Perry C.

DISCLAIMER

This Newsletter is a publication of the CSO of Southern Colorado. It is about, by, and for the members of A.A. Opinions expressed herein are not to be attributed to Alcoholics Anonymous. Publication of an article does not imply endorsement by either A.A. or CSO, except where indicated.

What are Faithful Fivers?

They are AA members who pledge at least \$5.00 each month toward the support of their local Central Office to "carry the message". This idea is catching on around the country. In "Just for Today," a story noted that "the plan came about when we remembered that many of us had spent far more than \$5.00 on alcohol during our drinking days."

I want to pledge.

Here is my contribution of \$_____ For _____ Months.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Group _____

Send to: CSO, 4035A Club Manor Drive, Pueblo, CO 81008